

### Southeast News

PUBLISHED BY THE SOUTHEAST CONFERENCE

UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

**VOLUME 22** 

NOVEMBER 1973

NUMBER 9

#### North Alabama Association Meets

The North Alabama Association met at Mt. Lebanon Church, Steele, Ala., on October 6th. With eight churches represented by 50 delegates, we heard Roger Loosier, new pastor of Jones Chapel Church near Moulton, Ala., Cathy Dollard of the Ala.-Tenn. Youth Fellowship, and Lisa Shelton of the N. Ala. Youth Fellowship, in a panel discussion, "Problems Young People Face and How the Church Can Help."

John Pline led the Association in "Faith Testimonials" or "Sharing Your Faith." Richard Waugh is now serving as full-time pastor of Old Liberty Grove Church, near Town Creek, Alabama.

Licenses to preach were renewed for Daryl Smith, Pete Waldrep, Clarence Price, and Robert Partridge.

"Time to Rejoice" was presented by H. W. Tuttle, John Pline, and Roy Meinke.

Officers for 1973-74 are: Moderator, Roy Bain; Vice Moderator, George Washington; Secretary-Treasurer and Pastor-At-Large, Guy Colbert. Committee Chairmen are: Christian Education, Mrs. Roy Bain; Church and Ministry, Guy Colbert and Ernest Shelton; Outreach, Mrs. T. T. Gordon and Mrs. Wayne Martin.

The Association will meet again at Jones Chapel, Moulton, October 5, 1974.

#### Ala.-Tenn. Association Meets

The annual meeting of the Ala.-Tenn. Association met at First Church, Nashville, on September 29, 1973. Approximately 88 delegates and visitors were present.

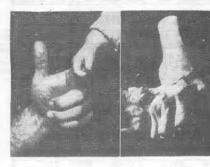
New officers for the coming year are: Moderator — Dr. Wilson Welch

Vice Moderator — Rev. James Cowlishaw

Secretary — Mrs. Marie Jones

Treasurer - Mr. Hubert Richter

The Executive Council is completed with Rev. Don Flick as Chairman of the Committee on Outreach; Dr. S. L. Johnson as Chairman of the Committee on Church and Ministry; and Rev. Allen Hollis, Chairman of the C. E. Committee.



Some bands reach out to touch and help, others are elembed in pain and despair. We all all all "Whys" to the cruel contrasts of our life. Why powerty in a land of plenty? Why loneliness in a world that would join bands? Why war when the impulse of the beart is to lone?

The aching chann between the real and the ideal conclusions are considered to make the machine.

### WHY:

In a world looking for answers maybe God is the place to start.
God is hope. God is now.

### YOU HAVE RESPONSE-ABILITY

The second Sunday in November (Nov. 11) is widely observed among Protestant churches of North America as Stewardship Sunday. In the United Church of Christ it has been often utilized as an appropriate time to hold the annual Christian Enlistment. Whether or not your congregation plans to engage in a Christian Enlistment this month, you will be interested in a number of the phases included.

For several years, the Stewardship Council has published a Christian Enlistment Guide which lifts up five phases of the Enlistment process: Directing the Enlistment, Analyzing the Situation, Designing the Budget, Promoting the Enlistment, and Securing the Commitments. Each phase is the subject of an attractively printed folder which details the way in which a congregation can successfully carry out the activity and which also provides space for a variety of related resource documents.

A Christian Enlistment is an effort to raise funds for the church's work for the coming year. But this is not all it is. Just as importantly, a Christian Enlistment is a (Continued on Page 2)

### LEADERS WILL TRAIN TO STRENGTHEN LOCAL CHURCH

Some will be pastors, but more will be lay people. Two training sessions will be hold: February 8-10, 1974, and April 26-28, 1974. (Note change in dates.) Between the two sessions, a team of 2-3 will visit with a local church, learn the hopes and dreams of the church, the problems and frustrations and begin planning with that local church ways and means of "accomplishing the impossible"!

The teams are to be selected by pastors and lay leaders across the Conference. The churches involved will be selected from invitations received and because of special needs. It is hoped these teams will continue their useful service through the years ahead and not just for a few months.

The program for Strengthening the Local Church and the Identity Program will be combined and available to the churches as needed.

#### MINISTERING IS -

Hanging curtains in the church kitchen. Attending the Ala.-Tenn. Association meeting.

Paying your church pledge on time.
Getting to church early so you can greet visitors.

Giving to Neighbors in Need.

Providing consultation to a Church School teacher.

Giving rides to those who do not drive. Cleaning up the church nursery after a broken window.

Making sure there is love experienced in the Church School classes.

Seeing that all the doors and windows are closed after church.

Curtis Black going up and giving Bill Hiles a big hug.

Being hosts for the morning.

Introducing your family to your friends.

Looking forward to the Diakonia Groups.

Helping take care of Susan so Joan can go
to the Peace Conference.

Making the church nursery a place you want to come back to.

Written by Naomi Faust, Brookmeade Church, Nashville, after being inspired by Dr. Andes' sermon (10-7-73).

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMEN (Act of August 12, 1970: Section 3685. Title 39.	United States Code)	ON PAGE 2 (REVERSE)
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RESPONSE -ABILITY (From Page 1)

PS Form 3526 July 1971

way of strengthening your entire church both financially and spiritually. By an Enlistment you can explain the importance of your church's work to the members of your congregation and thereby increase both their financial and personal support of this work. The truth is that in these days the church needs the Christian commitment of each of its members. The Christian Enlistment process is a tried and true method of securing such commitment.

The theme for 1973 is "You Have Response-Ability. Surely this will speak to each of us in terms of the responsibility placed upon us by our Christian commitment and also our ability to respond to the challenge such commitment places before us.

For further information about the Christian Enlistment, contact your local pastor or write: Secretary for Christian Enlistment, Stewardship Council, 1505 Race St., Philadelphia, Pa. 19102.

### **NEWS NOTES**

East Alabama ministers meet monthly, mostly in Lanett, Alabama, on the third Monday night. In October they had as their guests the student ministers of the area and in November they will have a new group, "lay preachers", as their guests. This new group will endeavor to fill pulpits when needed, assist pastors, and share in leadership of churches where there are no pastors.

Ministers of South Alabama-N. W. Florida also meet monthly. They travel great distances and stay quite late to do Bible study (each pastor takes his turn in being teacher) and develop plans for the strengthening of churches.

Bonanza Community Church, Jonesboro, Ga., is seeking bids from contractors to construct their church building. The first bids were double what they felt they could afford, the highest bid being \$280,000.

Congratulations to J. K. Murphy and Martha Keeble of LaGrange, Ga., upon their marriage September 2, 1973, in the Oak Grove Congregational Christian Church, Pine Mountain, Ga. Rev. Warren Blankenhorn performed the wedding ceremony. Mr. Murphy is the coordinator of the Education Commission of the Southeast Conference. On September 27 Mr. Murphy suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized for several weeks. Reports are that he is improving.

Edward Smallwood of Columbus, Ga., is a patient in the VA Hospital in Atlanta, Ga. He is the former pastor of First Church, Columbus.

Congratulations to Rev. A. C. Nelson, who was married to Miss Hazel Carden on October 7, at Lanett Congregational Christian Church, Lanett, Ala.

A Father-Son Weekend at Camp Ozone was enjoyed by members of the Pilgrim (Continued on Page 6)

#### THE SOUTHEAST NEWS

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### 'SHALOM''

(Quotation from sermon by David Beebe on "Shalom". Used at Southern Regional CLLW Meeting, May 19, 1973)

I suppose you know that the Hawaiians have a word which is full of meaning yet difficult to translate. The word is "Aloha." It means "hello", it means "good-bye", it means peace, health, prosperity, happiness, and so many other different meanings that one cannot really say in English just what the word "Aloha" does mean.

There is such a word in Hebrew. The word is "shalom." It comes from the same root from which we get the word "Salem". It is usually translated "peace". It comes from a philogical root meaning health and wholeness.

When a Jewish person gives you the gift of "shalom" he may say to you "shalom aleichem"; you respond "aleichem shalom"—"peace be with you" and "with you be peace". But, when a Jewish person says that, he is giving much more than the gift of peace; he is wishing you health; he is wishing you wholeness; he is wishing you prosperity and happiness.

All of these things are bound up in that one beautiful word, "shalom". For "shalom" is what man's life is hungry for. "Shalom" means fulfillment; it means to be whole.

When a Jewish person in the old days (and sometimes still today) entered someone's home (and that was true not only of the Jewish people but also of all semitic peoples — and some others such as the Irish) it was the custom upon entering a home to say "Peace to this house." That is why Jesus said to His disciples when He sent out the seventy to preach: "Wish the house peace as you enter it, so that if it is



worthy, your peace may descend on it; if it is not worthy, your peace can come back to you." (Matthew 10:12, 13, N. E. B.) In other words, because somebody else does not accept you, don't let that upset you. You take your peace with you and you go.

It was the Jewish custom, upon entering a house, upon saying hello, to say "Peace be with you; peace to this house." It was also the Jewish custom, upon saying good-bye, to say "Peace be with you." That is why Jesus said, in the words of our gospel lesson, "Peace is my parting gift to you." Those words are taken from the discourse which, according to John's gospel, Jesus gave to His disciples in the Upper Room at the Last Supper which He ate with them. He gave them peace for He was saying "goodbye — peace is my parting gift to you."

But He went on to say "My own peace, such as the world cannot give." He means, of course, the peace of coming home to God.

#### NOW AND LOOKING AHEAD:

October 23 — Rev. John DeBoer of Board for Homeland Ministries visits with Chattanooga, First Church, in regard to their possible relocation.

October 24 — Morgan-Scott Cooperative Ministry meets at the Church of the Savior, Knoxville, with John DeBoer as special guest. In the evening, Mr. DeBoer meets with the Robbins Parish Council at the Deer Lodge Church.

October 27-28 — Georgia-S. C. Association, Savannah, First Church.

October 31 — Executive Council, Ala.-Tenn. Association, at Uplands, Pleasant Hill, Tenn., 9:00 a. m.

November 1 — All Saints' Day.

November 2 — World Community Day.

November 3 — 10:00 A. M., Southern Alabama Area Council's small committee (Representatives of Associations involved and of Conference), Holiday Inn, East, Montgomery, to arrange financial details and job description of Area Minister for S. Alabama in Southeast Conference.

November 4—11:00 A. M. Moderator Margaret A. Haywood, First Church, Montgomery, Ala., "Women's Day" speaker.

4:00 P. M. — Ecclesiastical Council, Hillside Christian Church, LaGrange, Ga., to examine David Chandler and, if all goes well, to ordain him to the Christian Ministry at 5:30 P. M.

November 6 — Dr. Ira Black, Board of Homeland Ministries, and W. J. Andes at Huntsville, Ala., United Church, 7:30 P. M.

November 7 — Dr. Black, W. J. Andes, and H. W. Tuttle at Bonanza Community Church, Jonesboro, Ga., 7:30 P. M.

November 8 — Dr. Black, H. W. Tuttle, and W. J. Andes at Charleston, S. C., Plymouth Church, 7:30 P. M.

November 11 — 100th Anniversary, Antioch Church, near Andalusia, Alabama, 11:00 A. M.

November 16-17 — Executive Council, Ga. S. C. Association, First Church, Atlanta, Ga.

November 18 — Thanksgiving Sunday, and American Indian Sunday Offering.

November 22 - Thanksgiving Day.

December 1 — Southern Alabama Area Council, Montgomery, Alabama.

December 2 — First Sunday in Advent.

Richard J. Barnes of Columbus, Ga., ordained in 1957 and pastor of Providence Chapel, Richland, Ga., for the last few years, retired in December, 1972, and continues to live at 3501 Earline Ave., Columbus, Ga. 31904.

SOUTHEAST:	
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Church, Chattanooga, August 3-5.

Members of the Huntsville, Alabama, United Church met at Joe Wheeler State Park on September 14-15 to plan the program for the year 1974 for the church. The first evening, priorities for the church were set: new members, stimulation of present members, involvement, facility improvement, education, youth involvement, stewardship (life management), fellowship, social action, survival, exposure, revitalization, and sharing "The Story."

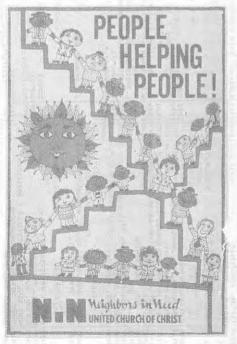
The next day, Council was divided into two groups in which each studied part of the above listed goals. Good food, fellowship and communing with nature made it worthwhile for all.

Congratulations to Kathy Dollard of Huntsville upon her election as president of the Ala.-Tenn. Association Youth.

Congratulations to Bill Hodnett, pastor, and Todd Congregational Christian Church, Shawmut, Ala., for finally paying off a debt of \$25,936.80, as well as installing new drapes in the sanctuary and starting a church library. The indebtedness was financed through 1984, but the church wanted to pay it off ahead of time.

OUR SYMPATHY TO THE FAMILY OF Edith Rowland Fidler (Mrs. Norman). who passed away in Baytown, Texas, Sept. 21, 1973. Funeral services were held in Burlington, N. C., Sept. 24, 1973. Pastor George Fidler assisted in the funeral services for his mother.

Memorials to the glory of God and in loving memory of Mrs. Norman Fidler were given by many members of the Cullman St. John's United Church of Christ(where George Fidler is pastor), as well as other places.



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the Indian as they treat each other — we shall be all alike — brothers of one father and one mother with one sky above us, and one country around us, and one government for all. . . . for this time the Indian race is waiting and

Chief Joseph, Nez Perce 1879

AMERICAN INDIAN SUNDAY UNITED CHURCH

### American Indian Sunday Is Nov. 18

November 18th is the occasion for the third annual American Indian Sunday in the United Church of Christ. A specially authorized all-church offering will be received in many congregations on this occasion to help further work of our U.C. C. Council for American Indian Ministry. While mission work among American Indians was carried on by our predecessor denominations for well over a hundred years, it has only been in the past few years that it has been carried on by the Indian people themselves.

Today, with continued financial help from our United Church Board for Homeland Ministries and with reciepts from the American Indian Sunday all-church offering, the Council is undertaking a broad program of services. In addition to supporting local church work at Black River Falls, Wisconsin, among the Winnebago and in North and South Dakota among the Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara, and Sioux (or as they prefer to be called, the Dakota) tribes, the Council is supporting scholarship help for Indian young people across the United States, and a wide variety of other Indian programs: agricultural, employment training, legal, and tribal development.

When you contribute to the American Indian Sunday all-church offering, you may be assured that the money will be well used as Indians help Indians to develop their own potential for living in today's world. You may discover, too, that as you learn more about these First Americans there will be elements of wisdom which the Indian people can share with us who are non-Indian - a concern for our total environment, a methodology for working with nature, a vision of peaceful acceptance of one another.

#### Tribute To W. H. Auden

(Following the death of Mr. Auden on Oct. 2, Rev. David Beebe included the following poem from Auden's "Christmas Oratoria" in the News of Pilgrim Church, Chattanooga.)

"For the Time Being"

He is the Way.

Follow Him through the land of Unlikeness;

You will see rare beasts, and have unique adventures.

He is the Truth.

Seek Him in in the Kingdom of Anxiety; You will come to a great city that has expected your return for years.

He is the Life.

Love Him in the World of the Flesh. And at your marriage all its occasions dance for joy.

#### Elon Home For Children

In the Thanksgiving-Christmas season each year, the Elon Home for Children at Elon College, N. C., makes a special appeal to our churches for help in support of the boys and girls at the Home. Since it is our Home and we are responsible for the well-being of the children entrusted to our care, we must respond generously to these special appeals. All through the years we should demonstrate our concern for the Home and remember the staff and the children in our prayers.

On Sunday, Sept. 16, the Lanett Church voted to purchase a new home for the parsonage and sell the present one. Price for the new home is \$38,000, and a loan of \$15,000 was negotiated in order to make the purchase. The home includes 5 bedrooms, 3 baths, a large living area plus dining room, parlor and kitchen. A large carport and utility area are included on a 140' x 190' lot.

# EAST ALABAMA ASSOCIATION ANNUAL SESSION

Dispatch and harmony in attendance to association business and inspiration and challenge in the devotionals and sermons seemed to be the consensus on the two-day session of the East Alabama Association, October 17 and 18, 1973.

Meeting with the Lanett Church, a large percentage of the churches was represented by delegates and the majority of the pastors were present.

The theme for the meeting was "Rejoice in Hope," Romans 5:2 and 12:12, which was emphasized by many participants in the proceedings.

Just before the noon meal Moderator Joe A. French delivered the association sermon on the subject, "Doing the Best Things in the Worst Times," in which it was pointed out that in these bad times of our society we should rejoice that we have hope in Christ, that there is desperate need to apply the gospel in all areas of life and that only the best type of Christian discipleship is sufficient to show a wayward world the way to Christ.

The "Time to Rejoice" audio-visual presentation of the Rev. Karlton Johnson was an eye-opener to delegates regarding the world-wide work of the United Church of Christ and the urgent need of our contribution to this program through Our Christian World Mission.

The second day of the session was called to order by Moderator French in the LaGrange United Church. Attendance was much better than in past years.

The sermon by Dr. David Naglee of the LaGrange College faculty, in which he used the Gospel of John as a background for illustrating the characters of Christian discipleship, was most inspiring for the audience.

The program, work, and activities of the Southeast Conference were well reported by Moderator Wallace Boothby and Conference Minister Wm. J. Andes.

Three significant and important developments which are destined to play a major role in the future life of the churches are: 1. Team ministry; 2. The Lay Ministry program; 3. The establishment of an area ministry for the churches and ministers of the South Alabama area.

The report of the Association Executive Committee recommended that we enter into a plan with the Central Alabama Association, the South Alabama Association and the Southeast Conference in the establishment of a fulltime employed person to work with the churches and ministers of the area for the development of a more progressive and effective program. The Rev. Warren Blankenhorn, pastor of Oak Grove, was recommended

for the position

A second recommendation came from the Committee on Church and Ministry for establishing a program for Lay Ministry to our churches. A Lay Minister is described as "an unordained member who has been called of God and authorized by the association to perform duties, mainly preaching and conducting services of worship." A program of study and training will prepare such men for this ministry.

A third development is that of the team ministry in a local church which is already in operation at Roanoke Lowell, LaGrange United and Woodberry Jones Chapel churches. At LaGrange United the Rev. David Naglee is the senior minister and Terry Clark, a student at Candler School of Theology, is the associate. At Roanoke Lowell and Woodberry Jones Chapel, Dr. C. Frank McCook is the Counselor and Adviser to Wayne Mosley and James Smith, both of whom are students at LaGrange College.

In addition to these three young men, Rev. Harold N. Auler at Lanett, Rev. Stephen Gray at Langdale, and Rev. David Chandler at LaGrange Hillside are new ministers in our association.

The association elected the following officers: Moderator, Rev. Joe A. French; Vice Moderator, Rev. J. Wallace Roberts; Secretary, H. Paul Beaird; Treasurer, Ross McCormick.

The following committees were appointed:

CHURCH AND MINISTRY
Rev. Harold N. Auler Jr., Chairman
Rev. Olin E. Sheppard
Rev. David Chandler

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION
J. K. Murphy, Chairman
Mrs. Grady L. Harris
Mrs. Travis Moon

OUTREACH
Odell Yancey, Chairman
Robert R. Bringle
Fred Morris

The 1974 association will meet with Roanoke Lowell on October 16 and with the Pleasant Grove church on October 17.

#### Two Kinds Of People

There are two kinds of people in our church — pillars and caterpillars. The pillars hold up the church. The caterpillars simply go in and out. — Quoted

Topeka Council of Churches News, Topeka, Kansas

#### **Ordination Birthday**

On October 21 the Rev. George Staley Hunt and the Rev. Joe Amos French observed their 45th ordination birthday at Roanoke First Church.

The Rev. A. R. Van Cleave, Wadley, delivered the sermon on the topic "He Is Able to Guard All I Have Given Him. II Timothy 1:12.

The unusual event of the service was the renewal of ordination vows led by Conference Minister William J. Andes. Using the original ordination service of October 17, 1928, Mr. Andes made the service impressive.

In the 1928 service, which was held in the Roanoke church, the Rev. C. Carl Dollar, who died in 1968, was also ordained.

Only one member of the original Ordaining Presbytery is still living. He is the Rev. Guy H. Veazey of Elon College, N. C.

Following the morning worship the ladies of the church served a delicious lunch to the attendants.

#### Different Approach

The following is one of thirty-two devotional messages in Lord Make Me An Instrument by D. Douglas Schneider, agricultural missionary of our United Church Board for World Ministries for nine years in Orissa, India, who has recently returned to India for a special tour of duty after serving churches in Michigan for the past two years.

"There is a different emphasis to mission work today. Fewer pastors are being called to preach as evangelists and more missionaries are being called to perform social services. But all of these persons are fulfilling Jesus' command.

"The doctor, teacher, business administrator, or farmer goes out to work with a Christian community on behalf of some mission board. That person is not necessarily called upon to preach, but he or she is called upon to witness.

Healing the sick, feeding hungry minds and bodies are ways of demonstrating that God is Love. These are also ways of showing that the church is concerned about the physical and mental well-being of man. These supportive ministries give a point of contact at which the Christian and non-Christian meet. It is at this point where meaningful dialogue takes place. It is at this point where the non-Christian can begin to understand that God cares for him as a person, as an indivudual creation. Once a non-Christian sees himself in this new light, the church can fulfill its own mission by taking up its task of preaching."

THE SOUTHEAST NEWS
P. O. Box 29883
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

### Lawrence Strunk Installed As Uplands Director

Rev. Lawrence N. Strunk was officially installed as Executive Director of Uplands Retirement Center at Pleasant Hill, Tenn., by Dr. J. H. Lightbourne Jr. and Dr. W. J. Andes on September 22, 1973, at the meeting of the Board of Directors at Uplands. Mr. Strunk began his task on Sept. 15, 1973.

Rev. Wayne Peck, for the past nine years the Executive Director, now becomes the Director of Development for Uplands. He was also installed along with Mr. Strunk.

Mr. and Mrs. Strunk have served the Hagerstown United Church of Christ for the past 18 years. Both have had experience in hospital and nursing home work. We welcome them to the Southeast Conference and to Uplands. We are thankful for the very effective work of Wayne Peck which has brought Uplands to the place where two people are needed in administration and development of Uplands.

# Planning Ahead — How About Those Christmas Cards?

One of the better ways to keep from getting frustrated is to plan ahead. This is particularly true when it comes to Christmas card buying and mailing. You can also help others by this method.

UNICEF cards help children by providing health, education and social welfare services in 110 developing nations. For a free color catalog illustrating UNICEF cards, and information on your neighborhood outlets, contact UNICEF Information Service, 110 Maryland Ave., NE, Washington, D. C. 20002, (202) 547-0204.

# **Lanett Scout Leader To National Jamboree**

George Mann, Scout leader for Lanett Church, Lanett, Ala., and four Scouts traveled to Moraine State Park in Pennsylvania to the National Scout Jamboree. Said George, "The Jamboree was great and we met many fine Scouters. I believe every Scout who attended will always remember it — I know I will. I want to thank the Congregational Christian Church (Lanett) for making it possible this summer.

"The theme of the 1973 National Scout Jamboree was 'Growing Together' and I truly hope we can do just that."

# UCC Aiding In West Africa Famine

The United Church Board for World Ministries is working in West Africa to deal with the drought and famine there. Through Church World Service, UCC has fielded a nutritional team in Niger. We have dealt with refugees in Northern Ghana over the years through regular programs, and through Agricultural Missions, we are trying to deal with the root causes of the drought and famine to provide long term improvement of the situation. The major things which are lacking are funds necessary to do the vast job. This work is funded through OCWM and One Great Hour of Sharing offerings.

#### Henry Clay Weaver

Resigned from Macedonia Church at Braselton, Georgia, on Sept. 16, 1973, effective Sept. 30, 1973. He has served there 13 years.

Mr. Weaver now lives at 3062 Westminster Circle, N. W., Atlanta, Georgia 30327. He is also employed with The Atlanta Constitution newspaper.

## WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES: AROUND THE WORLD

You may have wondered how much it costs to support a missionary overseas. Recently, the United Church Board for World Ministries estimated that, on the average, it takes \$6,211 per year to support one of its overseas personnel. This is in addition to the costs of recruitment and orientation of such persons. The reason that this is an "average" figure is that compensation for missionaries is related to the costs of living in various parts of the world and to family size. In many cases, both husband and wife are missionaries with separate responsibilities. In this case the Board's salary for the family is twice the basic amount. Family allowances also vary from situation to situation.

Many congregations which are already giving generously to Basic Support for Our Christian World Mission have discovered the joy of helping beyond this amount for a Second Mile Special project. Support of individual missionaries is the most popular of the Second Mile Special projects. For further information contact your Conference office.

### Minister Comments On Watergate, Westminister, Politics

Rev. S. L. Johnson, who, with his wife, was at Christ Church College in England this summer, had the following written to him by Rev. Iain Stewart, minister, St. Andrews Church, Canterbury, England:

"We have been hearing lately about the bad side of politics. A scandal in Westmin ster, with the resignations of two Ministers, and the possibility of more names being implicated; the Watergate affair in America which is hitting headlines all over the world and seems aimed at the President himself. To ordinary people like ourselves the life of a politician is rather remote. They are very much in the limelight and have responsibilities for dealing with very important questions. But when their private life goes wrong, we are brought down to earth. We are reminded that they are just as human as we, they make mistakes, and someone has to pay the price.

Do we ever give thought to the immensity of some of the problems of politicians, or to the fact that many are insoluble? How can they successfully deal with rising prices when it is only one link in a much larger economic circle. The chances of obtaining agreement from housewives, industrialists and workers on

a single economic policy is almost impossible. Has any politician ever come up with the answer to the growing number of the world's homeless people? Who has the answer to Ireland's deep problems? Would Enoch Powell's outspoken ideas bring us to a quicker or better solution on immigration or the Common Market? The problems in our country are immense — worldwide they are almost unthinkable, almost but not quite.

We must never lose heart; no matter how large the problem we must face it. There's a growing feeling that if we are to save our planet from destruction, we must learn to work together. Let us remind ourselves God does care for humanity. He is concerned about the refugees, the homeless and the suffering. The answer to this world's problems lies in the human heart. If man were less selfish, greedy, and unloving, this world would be a better place. The central idea of the new age brought into the world by Jesus is that God would pour out His Spirit upon all flesh; He would give His people a new heart of love and compassion, and they would be the salt of the earth. How much easier the work of the politician if people were more loving and considerate, and more Christlike!